



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group

Keeping a watchful eye...

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Brandon White, fire team member, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, scans the horizon for potential adversaries atop a wall in the city of Qal'eh-ye Musa Pa-in Wednesday during a special Adopt-A-Village delivery to the villa about five kilometers south of Bagram Air Base. White, normally assigned to the 824th Security Forces Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., was on the wall as part of a security detail as 20 airmen delivered more than 750 pounds of school supplies, clothing, shoes and food to about 50 families. The donations were mailed to airmen here from friends, relatives and church groups at a cost of about \$3,000 in postage.

Bagram welcomes new base commander

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – After serving as Bagram Air Base commander for a year, Col. Christopher S. Pritchett steps down as Col. Kurt A. McNeely replaces him Saturday.

“I had some of the hardest working, most proficient, caring, dedicated people working for me that I have experienced in my entire time in the service,” said Pritchett on accomplishments made here since the beginning of his tenure April 2002.

“They had an extremely difficult job. Not many people would take their place. It shows the value of teamwork,” added Pritchett.

As Pritchett returns to another year in command at the Command Support Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., McNeely begins signing documents, visiting local villages and working on his goals for Bagram.

The new colonel, who left his position as garrison commander at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to replace Pritchett, said his goals for the base include better living conditions for personnel. He said his command philosophy is to “work hard to support smart.”

“I want to come up with a long range master plan for Bagram that identifies unit mission needs and then provides for the base

Medical miracles in Madr Valley

By Spc Worley B. Smith
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MADR VALLEY, Afghanistan — The scene outside the front gate of Firebase Romero, Madr Valley was unlike any other before. People gathered for the first Medical Civil Assistance Program and Veterinary Civil Assistance Program Wednesday. The landscape surrounding the firebase was a scene of organized confusion as doctors and medics from Bagram arrived to treat various ailments and conditions of villagers and livestock.

“This is the first ever MEDCAP/VETCAP in Madr Valley,” said Spc. Jeremy Thompson, 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group.

For the past few months Madr Valley has been the base of operations for the 2nd Battalion Afghan National Army. U.S. Special Forces units operating in the area, responsible for training and working with the Afghan National Army contributed to the success of the event.

Eight medial personnel treated villagers and their livestock from as far as 40 kilometers away. Many of the villagers made the arduous journey through the Kamard Valley to Madr by foot while herding their animals, said Thompson.

Lt. Col. Marlyn Goodbary, 403rd Civil Affairs Special Operations Force and Maj. Stephen Goldsmith, 20th Special Forces Group, both veterinarians, spent the three days of the MEDCAP/VETCAP treating an estimated 2,000 heads of livestock ranging from sheep to goats and cows to horses.

“Cattle are slower to vaccinate than other animals,” said Goldsmith.

“Sheep and goats can be vaccinated like an assembly line, while each cow has to be

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Elizabeth Smart found alive

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Missing teenager Elizabeth Smart, the subject of an intense police hunt since she was reported abducted from her bedroom last summer, was found alive Wednesday in the nearby suburb of Sandy and reunited with her family.

"I don't know what she's gone through and I'm sure she's been through hell," said Elizabeth's father Ed Smart, adding that it was "absolutely wonderful" to have her back with their family.

Salt Lake City Police Chief Rick Dinse said 15-year-old Elizabeth "is well and healthy."

"She knows who she is," he said, and police are questioning her about what happened. "She's a very smart, alert lady," Dinse said.

He added, in response to a flurry of questions, "We are convinced she was kidnapped" and held against her will.



Chilean demonstrators chant antiwar slogans during a rally this week in Santiago against a possible war on Iraq.

U.S. one vote short on resolution

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration believes that it is one vote shy of having the needed nine votes on a U.N. Security Council resolution giving Iraq an ultimatum to disarm, two senior U.S. State Department officials said Wednesday.

These officials said the administration will focus its diplomatic energies on Mexico and Chile to secure their backing.

President Bush has spent much of the last week on the telephone, lobbying council members to support the resolution.

"Bush and [British Prime Minister Tony] Blair are attempting to do whatever it takes to get the Latins to commit," one U.S. official said.

Crime gang blamed for PM killing

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serbia's government says the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic was carried out by members of an organized crime group.

"This criminal act is a clear attempt to put an end to the development and democratization of Serbia and plunge it into isolation once again and was carried out by those who have been trying over the past few years to do so through various murders and assassinations," the government said in an official statement.

Officials are speculating that the shooting could be linked to a crime wave in the country and the government's efforts to stamp out organized crime.

U.S. resumes N. Korea flights

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force said Wednesday it will resume reconnaissance flights off the coast of North Korea for the first time since a March 2 incident that was perceived as hostile.

Four North Korea MiG fighters intercepted an Air Force RC-135 aircraft 150 miles off the Korean peninsula over the Sea of Japan and apparently gestured for the pilot to land in North Korea, Pentagon officials said.

The Pentagon didn't say when the flights would resume. Officials said there will be an AWACs early warnings airplane nearby.

Supreme Court issues stay postponing Texas' 300th execution

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday stopped Texas from executing its 300th inmate since capital punishment resumed in the United States in 1977, granting a dramatic last-minute stay to condemned killer Delma Banks.

Banks' claims that he was wrongly con-

victed of a murder 23 years ago were backed by three former federal judges.

Egyptian gets \$27 million for Mohammed's arrest tip

WASHINGTON — An Egyptian radical will get \$27 million as a reward for giving the United States information that led authorities to alleged Sept. 11, 2001, mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, government sources said Wednesday.

The sources, confirming a story previously reported in a British paper and in Newsweek, said the unnamed Egyptian was captured during a raid in Quetta, Pakistan, last month. The Egyptian was described as an al-Qaida foot soldier.

Names of deceased, injured in crash released

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — The military confirmed Wednesday that 11 of the 13 soldiers aboard a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed during training died when the helicopter went down in a remote, wooded area of a base in northern New York.

All 13 soldiers aboard the helicopter were active members of the 10th Mountain Division. The four crew members were from the division's Aviation Brigade. The infantrymen were from the 2nd Brigade.

Killed in Tuesday's crash in New York were: Capt. Christopher E. Britton, 27, of Ohio; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth L. Miller, 35, of California; Staff Sgt. Brian Pavlich, 25, of Port Jervis, N.Y.; Sgt. John L. Eichenlaub Jr., 24, of South Williamsport, Pa.; Sgt. Joshua M. Harapko, 23, of Peoria, Ariz.; Spc. Lucas V. Tripp, 23, of Aurora, Colo.; Spc. Barry M. Stephens, 20, of Pinson, Ala.; Pfc. Shawn A. Mayerscik, 22, of Oil City, Pa.; Pfc. Tommy C. Young, 20, of Knoxville, Tenn.; Pfc. Stryder O. Stoutenburg, 18, of Missoula, Mont.; and Pfc. Andrew D. Stevens, 20, whose hometown is unavailable.

The two injured soldiers are Spc. Dmitri Petrov, who was in critical condition and Spc. Edwin A. Mejia, who was in serious condition. Ages and hometowns for Petrov and Mejia were unavailable.

Critter of the Week:

Saw-scaled viper

By Capt. Cory Campora
791st Preventive Medicine Detachment

The saw-scaled Viper, *Echis carinata*, is one of the most dangerous snakes in the world. Many deaths are attributed to this small snake due to its highly toxic venom and large population densities throughout its range in Asia, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and North Africa. The average length of a saw-scaled viper is only about 16-20 inches; however, they can be extremely short tempered and aggressive. When provoked or threatened they will assume a defensive position and rub their keeled body scales together to produce a distinctive rasping sound, hence their name saw-scaled vipers. Coloration can vary from light brown to dark or olive brown with a dorsal stripe interrupted by spots.

Like all vipers, the head is triangular and broader than the neck, and the body is somewhat stout, tapering abruptly to a short tail. They are primarily nocturnal, hunting at dusk and at night for rodents, lizards, birds, and insects. Sometimes their search for prey will lead them into areas inhabited by people; therefore, care should be taken when lifting objects from the ground such as pallets or debris under which these vipers may be resting.



Saw-scaled viper: note the broad, triangular head with stout body and stubby tail.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "The Cable Guy." Steven Kovak has been kicked out of his apartment by his girlfriend. Steven has a new apartment, and decides to slip the cable guy (Chip) \$50 for free cable. Chip tries to become Steven's best bud. When Steven no longer wants to be Chip's friend he tries to ruin Steven's life. Tomorrow's movie will be "Meet the Parents."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Rain</i> H: 59F L: 21F	<i>Rain</i> H: 54F L: 32F
Kandahar:	<i>Cloudy</i> H: 72F L: 45F	<i>Thunderstorms</i> H: 64F L: 44F
Kabul:	<i>Rain</i> H: 63F L: 27F	<i>Rain</i> H: 59F L: 32F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Isolated thunderstorms</i> H: 60F L: 36F	<i>Isolated thunderstorms</i> H: 54F L: 33F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Firearms simulator expands Bagram training

Story and photo by
Pfc. Charles D. Meseke
CTF-82 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, an indoor weapons training simulator, opened Saturday at Bagram Air Base.

The EST 2000 uses computer software, realistic weapons, and a pair of 13-foot long projection screens to simulate a variety of battle scenarios and weapons range training.

The system offers more than 200 scenarios of programmed battle situations, but with a fully customizable interface there are virtually unlimited numbers of scenarios possible, said Jesse Salvatore, a software engineer for ECC International Corp., a simulation training company that developed the system.

Simulated weapons compatible with the EST 2000 are the M9 pistol, M4 carbine, M1200 shotgun, M16A2 rifle, M203 grenade launcher, M249 squad automatic weapon, M240B machine gun, AT4 anti-armor weapon, MK-19 automatic grenade launcher, and M60 machine gun.

"It is important because the more training and practice a soldier gets, the better," said Maj. Ray Compton, Program Executive Office.

The Program Executive Office conducts development and fielding of new equipment for the military.

"When deployed, you can't always go out to a range due to safety, environmental issues, limited ammo supplies, or any number of other issues," Compton added.

"With this system we can provide soldiers with a con-



Spc. Jesse Clark, radio transmissions operator, Coalition Task Force-82, fires a simulated .50-caliber machine gun at Bagram Air Base's Engagement Skills Trainer Saturday.

trolled environment to practice in," he added.

Although the system has been used for the past three years, the EST 2000 in Bagram was the first to open in a combat zone.

Using the trainer during deployments was the primary idea behind the development of the system.

"The whole purpose of the EST 2000 was to put it in a combat zone so soldiers can practice and maintain their proficiency," Compton said.

Not only does the EST 2000 offer realistic computer-generated troops, vehicles, aircraft and battlefields, but weapon functions are also accurate.

The system uses real weapons that have been modified

with electronics to make noise and kick with each fired round.

"The test feedback we received from the 'infantry school' analysis at Fort Benning, Ga., was very positive," Salvatore said.

Feedback from soldiers at Bagram also was positive.

"It is pretty realistic," said Spc. Jesse Clark radio operator for Coalition Task Force-82.

"It's not as loud as the real thing, but it still has noise and some kick when firing," said Clark.

"The battle scenarios, with the vehicles and aircraft were awesome," Clark added.

"(The EST 2000) is definitely going to help me with my marksmanship," he said.

Although there is no substi-

tute for actual range training, the EST 2000's detailed graphics, computer-calculated wind speeds, and bullet physics offer an alternative when going to a range is not possible, Compton said.

"The ETS 2000 is the most realistic training option to actually going out to a range and firing a weapon," Compton said.

The new training center is located behind the 527th Engineer Battalion's headquarters building off of Disney Drive, and is open 24 hours a day.

Units are encouraged to sign up for practice time at the EST 2000 by contacting Master Sgt. Joseph Pedroza, CTF-82 operations (C-3) sergeant major, through SIPRnet e-mail at ctf82-c3-sm.



Photos by Spc. Worley B. Smith, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Afghans line up to be screened during a recent Medical Civil Assistance Program in the Madr Valley.

MEDCAP, from Page 1

individually restrained,” he added.

“Among the vaccinations administered was anthrax as well as a six-way of clostridials,” Goodbary said.

According to Goldsmith, the vaccinations are primarily to treat spring-time diseases.

“The amount of preparation it takes to put on a MEDCAP or VETCAP in an area is extraordinary, especially if it’s the first ever,” said Maj. Frank DeAngelo, battalion surgeon, 1st Bn., 20th SFG.

“Planning usually begins at least a month out and even then it is dependent on a lot of variables such as weather and operational tempo,” he added. DeAngelo is a thoracic surgeon in New York. His extensive medical knowledge was especially useful during the MEDCAP.

While animals were being treated at one end of the compound people were receiving medical treatment at the other end.

“The majority of the ailments I’ve seen here have been ear, upper respiratory and urinary tract infections,” said Capt. Daniel D. Baird, physician’s assistant, 310th Psycho-

logical Operations Company.

“A lot of the females here I have seen have had goiters,” said DeAngelo, “I find the work I do here as a soldier rewarding.”

“I have a two-fold mission here. I’m primarily here for humanitarian reasons but also because it makes the area of operation more secure for U.S. forces because the people here know we’re here to help them,” he said.

Aside from the host of common ailments, there was the occasional serious injury like that of 19-year-old Eisa who had his thumb bitten by a snake 10 days before the MEDCAP started.

One of the interpreters who came out for the MEDCAP was Najla Farzana. Najla was born in Kandahar and moved to the U.S. when she was young. She has lived in California since, and is now back to help.

“This is the most medical attention a lot of these people have had in their entire life. They are extremely grateful that we are here. Some of the people even want to kiss our hands to thank us. Its unfortunate that we cannot do more for them,” she said.

When the MEDCAP concluded approximately 1,800 people had been treated.



Spc. Mark Hawley, 20th Special Forces Group, does initial examination of Hafizullah, his 2-year-old son, Hazrutullah, and his 5-year-old daughter, Siamoy.

MCNEELY, from Page 1

(operations) infrastructure that is needed to support those mission needs,” said McNeely.

“You don’t have a good installation just by having a good ‘base ops.’ This is not a bunch of individual units. We’re all in this together. Because when we work together, we will have a better community.”

The new leader’s previous deployments include Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Operation Joint Endeavor.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Trade deadline becoming ridiculous

ESPN — What a stupid system.

Of course, that can apply to any one of 312 standard operating procedures in the NHL.

It could be everything from having screaming disc jockey wannabes on wireless microphones in the stands during television timeouts, to more substantive issues involving the on-ice product and the financial structure of the game.

So we need to be more specific.

After a deadline day involving an unprecedented 24 trades, and an atmosphere reminiscent of a slimy car dealer with pinkie rings and wrist jewelry screaming that he'll give you the car if he can't beat anyone's deal, the NHL's balance of power might not have substantially shifted.

But this is starting to seem a little like English soccer — where there is a first division of teams that really know what they're doing, and a third division of organizations that have neither ambition nor acumen and deserve red cards. (OK, we faked that, because too much knowledge about English soccer, is nothing to brag about. But you get the drift.)

What in the name of Bates Battaglia is going on, anyway?

It remains ridiculous that such significant and potentially impactful roster changes can be made so close to the beginning of the playoffs.

And the disgrace is getting more pronounced every year, with certain bedraggled franchises — we won't name names, Penguins — operating as if they are discount department stores in danger of closing and have homeless vagrants standing on street corners wearing sandwichboard signs. ("EMERGENCY INVENTORY LIQUIDATION SALE! MUST RAISE CASH! MAKE OFFER!")

Nazarov suspended

PHOENIX — Phoenix Forward Andrei Nazarov was suspended on Wednesday for two games for punching San Jose's Dan McGillis during a game March 8, the NHL announced.

Nazarov was assessed a match penalty with 9:40 left in the first period after hitting McGillis in the head.

Nazarov, who will lose \$7,314.82 as a result of the suspension, served the first game of his suspension Monday and sat out Wednesday's game against Detroit.

Nazarov has three goals and 104 penalty minutes in



Is Chris Osgood an upgrade for the Blues in the tough Western Conference? One ESPN commentator believes that trading folks so close to the playoffs is ridiculous.

46 games for the Coyotes.

Young suspended two games

TORONTO — Dallas Stars forward Scott Young was suspended for two games without pay by the NHL on Wednesday for hitting Jaroslav Spacek in the face with his stick.

Young was assessed a match penalty for high sticking in the Stars' 2-0 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Monday.

Young will lose almost \$39,000 in salary. He can return for Saturday's game against Atlanta. Young has 15 goals and 16 assists this season.

Jagr says he paid debt four years ago

WASHINGTON — Jaromir Jagr acknowledged Wednesday that he made mistakes when he lost \$500,000 betting through an Internet gambling site, but he insisted he paid the debt four years ago and did nothing illegal.

"It was 1998, and I made mistakes," Jagr told reporters after the

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2002 National Hockey League standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	68 pts
(4) Philadelphia	68 pts
(8) N.Y. Islanders	69 pts
N.Y. Rangers	71 pts
Pittsburgh	71 pts

Northeast

(1) Ottawa	70 pts
(5) Toronto	70 pts
(7) Boston	70 pts
Montreal	71 pts
Buffalo	69 pts

Southeast

(3) Washington	71 pts
(6) Tampa Bay	70 pts
Florida	71 pts
Carolina	71 pts
Atlanta	68 pts

Western Conference

Central

(2) Detroit	70 pts
(5) St. Louis	69 pts
Nashville	69 pts
Chicago	69 pts
Columbus	69 pts

Northwest

(3) Vancouver	70 pts
(4) Colorado	69 pts
(6) Minnesota	69 pts
(8) Edmonton	70 pts
Calgary	69 pts

Pacific

(1) Dallas	71 pts
(7) Anaheim	70 pts
Phoenix	69 pts
Los Angeles	70 pts
San Jose	69 pts

SPORTS, from Page 6

Washington Capitals' practice. "I just wasn't smart. It was stupid. It wasn't illegal, and it was five years ago. Everything was taken care of in 1999. That's all I can tell you."

Jagr owed the money to William Caesar, owner of the gambling Web site CaribSports, based in Belize. Sports Illustrated reported that Jagr agreed to pay \$450,000, split into monthly payments, to settle the debt — and that Caesar leaked the story to the press after Jagr stopped making the payments.

Jagr disputed that part of the magazine's story, reiterating that the debt was settled in 1999, and that he didn't know why the story was coming out now.

There was no allegation that Jagr bet on NHL games, which would be violation of league rules. Caesar told the magazine he had technicians configure Jagr's betting page so the hockey star could not bet on the NHL.

"We did that for our own protection, not just his," Caesar said. "That would destroy us, if he destroyed the game."

Vanbiesbrouck apologizes

TORONTO — John Vanbiesbrouck apologized Wednesday to the Ontario Hockey League for a racial slur against a player.

The former NHL goaltender resigned Monday as coach and general manager of the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds after the slur against his team captain, Trevor Daley, a defenseman who is black.

"John Vanbiesbrouck requested permission to speak to the board, which was granted to him, and then he left," OHL commissioner David Branch said. "He apologized, was really the essence of what he said to the board, for his statement."

Branch spoke with Vanbiesbrouck and Greyhounds governor Sam Biasucci for 90 minutes before the meeting Wednesday.

"That was an important step obviously in the process," Branch said. "We'll be addressing a couple of other areas and then working to arrive at a position."

Wings get Schneider

DETROIT — The Detroit Red Wings acquired Mathieu Schneider from the Los Angeles Kings on

Tuesday in a bid to strengthen their defense for a run at another Stanley Cup.

The Red Wings gave up center Sean Avery and defenseman Maxim Kuznetsov in a deal hours before the trade deadline. The Kings also will receive Detroit's first-round pick in the 2003 draft and Detroit's second-round pick in 2004.

"I'm very excited to get the chance to win the Stanley Cup. And if there was one team I wanted to go to it was the Detroit Red Wings," Schneider said.

The 33-year-old Schneider, a member of

Montreal's 1992-93 Stanley Cup-winning team, is earning \$3.5 million this season. He was second on the Kings in scoring with 14 goals and 29 assists. This will be his sixth NHL club.

"I call him a top-four defenseman," Red Wings general manager Ken Holland said. "He can play minutes. He averages 22 minutes with L.A. He plays in every situation."



Mathieu Schneider makes his Red Wings debut tonight in Phoenix.

"Large cheese with anchovies, and if you don't deliver it in 30 minutes it's free, right?"



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support